

Message Text

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12

ACTION NODS-00

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P 190750Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5159

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 0499

NODIS

FOR DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY EAGLEBURGER FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJ: COMMITTEE HEARINGS

REF: STATE 002243

1. HAVE RECEIVED FROM SENATOR ABE RIBICOFF LETTER DATED JANUARY 9, 1976 WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN TEXT DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR: I AM PLEASED YOU WILL BE ABLE TO APPEAR BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE ON JANUARY 27TH TO TESTIFY ON LEGISLATION TO CREATE A NEW INTELLIGENCE OVER-SIGHT COMMITTEE IN CONGRESS. (PARAGRAPH) THE HEARINGS THAT DAY ARE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AT 10 AM IN ROOM 3302 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING. THE COMMITTEE WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE RECEIVING 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE ANY WRITTEN STATEMENT YOU PREPARE. BECAUSE OF THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE PRESS INTEREST IN YOUR STATEMENT, IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IF YOU COULD SUBMIT 75 COPIES OF YOUR TESTIMONY EITHER IN ADVANCE OR, IF NECESSARY, WHEN YOU APPEAR AT THE HEARING. (PARAGRAPH) YOU WILL FIND ENCLOSED A LIST OF THE GENERAL QUESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN RAISED IN CONNECTION WITH LEGISLATION TO CREATE A NEW INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE. I HAVE INCLUDED THIS LIST IN CASE IT IS OF ANY USE TO YOU AS YOU CONSIDER YOUR TESTIMONY FOR THE HEARINGS. (PARAGRAPH) IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS IN THE MEANTIME, YOUR STAFF MAY CONTACT DICK WEGMAN OR PAUL HOFF OF THE COMMITTEE

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STAFF. SINCERELY, ABE RIBICOFF. P.S. I AM ALSO

ENCLOSING FOR YOUR INFORMATION TWO OF THE INITIAL
BILLS NOW BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE WHICH
PROPOSE CREATION OF A NEW OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. A CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION IS ALSO ENCLOSED. END OF TEXT.

2. PERHAPS YOU WILL WANT TO HAVE ONE OF THE COMMITTEE STAFF
INFORM THAT I WILL NOT RPT NOT HAVE A WRITTEN STATEMENT.
I AM HAPPY TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE IN RESPONSE TO ITS
INVITATION AND TO ANSWER WHATEVER QUESTIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS
MAY CARE TO PUT TO ME. I SHALL NOT, HOWEVER, PRESENT A
PREPARED STATEMENT ON A PARTICULAR POINT OF VIEW. IN ADDITION,
I HAVE NOT RPT NOT CONSULTED WITH ANY MEMBERS OF PRESIDENT
FORD'S ADMINISTRATION ABOUT THE VIEWS OF THE ADMINISTRATION
ON INTELLIGENCE REORGANIZATION OR CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.
THEREFORE I AM FREE TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL VIEWS AND BELIEVE
THAT THIS IS THE MOST DESIRABLE APPROACH FOR ME
TO TAKE.

3. IF MY POSITION AS SET FORTH IN PARAGRAPH TWO ABOVE
PRESENTS ANY PROBLEMS FOR THE PRESIDENT OR THE SECRETARY,
PLEASE ADVISE. I WOULD HOPE THAT IT WOULD NOT. THE
ADMINISTRATION HAS ITS OWN DULY SELECTED REPRESENTATIVES
TO PRESENT ITS CASE ON CAPITOL HILL. SINCE I AM THE FORMER
DIRECTOR MOST UNDER ATTACK FROM THE SENATE, I WOULD APPRECIATE
BEING PERMITTED THAT FREEDOM OF RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS WHICH
WILL PERMIT ME TO EXPLAIN MY OWN PHILOSOPHY.

4. LOOK FORWARD TO VISITING ON THIS TRIP WITH THE SECRETARY
AND YOU. WILL CHECK WITH YOUR OFFICE UPON ARRIVAL TO ASCERTAIN
WHEN THIS WILL BE POSSIBLE. WARM REGARDS.
HELMS

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